

Application No.: 10/751,218
Amendments dated July 28, 2005
Response

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 12 on page 8 as follows:

Interconnected with the base members is a generally U-shaped, upwardly extending structural assembly generally designated by the numeral 40. The structural assembly 40 includes a generally "L" shaped structural member 42 having a first curved side 42a and a cast aluminum first connector segment 44. Structural member ~~[[40a]]~~ 42a is connected to aluminum first connector segment 44 by any suitable means such as welding. In a manner presently to be described, connector segment 44 is, in turn, pivotally connected to first base member 36. Structural assembly 40 also includes a second generally "L" shaped structural member 46 having a curved side 46a and a second, cast aluminum connector segment 48 that is connected to second curved side 46a by any suitable means such as welding. Connector segment 48 is, in turn, pivotally connected second base member 38.

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 7 on page 10 as follows:

As illustrated in figures 9 and 10, pivot pin 66 extends through aligned bores 69 formed in base member 38. Similarly, a locking pin 72 is receivable within

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bore 64a formed in ear 64. ~~Pivot~~ Locking pin ~~66~~ 72 extends through aligned bores 73 formed in base member 38 and, when in position within these openings in the manner shown in figures 6 ~~in~~ to 9, prevents pivotal movement of side 46 and connector segment 48 about pivot pin 66. As indicated by the phantom lines in figure 7, when the locking pin 72 is removed from the base member, the combination of side 46 and connector segment 48 is free to pivot about pivot pin 66 in the manner shown in figure 11.

Please amend the two paragraphs starting at line 2 on page 11 as follows:

The side members 42a and 46a are each formed individually by first heating a first length of tubing to an elevated, annealing temperature. This first length of tubing, which by way of example can be 6061-T6 aluminum tubing that has a diameter of approximately 5 inches, a first end 80a and a second end 80b. In the manner illustrated in figure 2, the heated length of tubing is swaged in a conventional manner well known to those skilled in the art to form a first swaged tube 80 having a tapered swaged portion 82 having a first end 84 of first diameter D-1 and a second end 86 of a second lesser diameter D-2 and a uniform diameter portion ~~86~~ 86a having a diameter D-3 substantially equal to said second lesser diameter D-2.

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Using an appropriate forming ~~dye~~ die, the tapered swaged portion 82 of the swaged tube 82 is strategically formed to produce a tapered swaged portion 82a and an elongated uniform diameter portion 86a (figure 3). As illustrated in figure 3, swaged portion 82a is generally oval shaped in cross-section and has a thickness "E". Swaged portion 82a has a width W-1, while uniform diameter portion 86a has a lesser width W-2. This swaging step is done in a conventional manner using conventional tooling that is of the character well understood by those skilled in the art.

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 8 on page 12 as follows:

Following the forming of the first wake tower subassembly, a second length of aluminum tubing is swaged and formed in the identical manner described in the preceding paragraphs to produce a second side 46a. This done, second connector segment 48 is suitably cast from a light weight metal such as aluminum and is interconnected as by welding ~~was second side 46a~~ to form assembly 46 that generally corresponds to the second half of the structural assembly 40.

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Please amend the paragraph starting at line 4 on page 14 as follows:

Interconnected with the base members is a generally U-shaped, upwardly extending structural assembly generally designated by the numeral 100. The structural assembly 100 includes a generally "L" shaped structural member 102 having a first curved side 102a and a cast aluminum first connector segment 104. Structural member 102 is connected to aluminum first connector segment 104 by any suitable means such as welding. In a manner presently to be described, connector segment 104 is, in turn, pivotally connected to first base member 96. Structural assembly 100 also includes a second generally "L" shaped structural member 106 having a curved side 106a and a second, cast aluminum connector segment 108 that is connected to second curved side 106a by any suitable means such as welding. Connector segment 108 is, in turn, pivotally connected to second base member 98.

Please amend the two paragraphs starting at line 4 on page 15 as follows:

Turning next to figures 17 through 21, a portion of one side of the wake tower of this latest form of the invention is there shown. It is to be understood that the other side of the wake tower is of a similar construction, but is not shown in the drawings in order to simplify the description. As best seen in figures 17 and 21,

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each of the base members is provided with a cavity 114 and each of the connector segments is provided with a pair of spaced apart, downwardly extending ears 116 and 118 that are receivable within the base member cavities. As shown in figure 17, downwardly extending ear 116 has a bore 116a formed therein and, similarly, downwardly extending ear 118, which has a length greater than the length of the ear 116, has a bore 118a formed therein. Receivable within bore 118a is a pivot pin 120 about which side 106 and connector segment 108 can pivot in the manner shown in figure 21. As illustrated in figures 19 and 20, pivot pin 120 extends through aligned bores ~~123~~ 125 formed in base member 98. Similarly, a locking pin 124 is receivable within bore 116a formed in ear 116. Locking pin 124 extends through aligned bores ~~125~~ 123 formed in base member 98 and, when in position within these openings in the manner shown in figures 17 and 20, prevents pivotal movement of side 106 and connector segment 108 about pivot pin 120. As indicated by the phantom lines in figure 20, when the locking pin 124 is removed from the base member, the combination of side 106 and connector segment 108 is free to pivot about pivot pin 120 in the manner shown in figure 21.

In accordance with an alternate form of the method of making the wake tower illustrated in figures 12 through 21, the first and second base members 96 and 98 are cast in a conventional manner from a suitable lightweight castable

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material such as aluminum and are appropriately finished. This done, the base members can be interconnected with ~~began my~~ also the powerboat by a plurality of threaded connectors 129 in the manner shown in figure 17.

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 4 on page 15 as follows:

Using an appropriate forming ~~dye~~ die, the swaged tube 130 is strategically formed so that it is generally oval shaped in cross-section. This swaging step is done in a conventional manner using conventional tooling that is of the character well understood by those skilled in the art. Following the swaging step, the swaged ~~to~~ first tube 130 is strategically bent into the desired shape to form a first bent tube that is generally "L" shaped in configuration and generally corresponds to the shape of member 102a.

Please amend the three paragraphs starting at line 7 on page 18 as follows:

Referring to figures 22 through 27, still another form of the wake tower of the invention is there shown and generally designated by the numeral 140. This embodiment is also similar in many respects to the embodiment shown in figures 1 through 11 and like numerals are used as in in figures 12 through 21 to identify like components. The main differences between this latest form of the invention

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and that earlier described resides in the fact that the wake tower is cast by conventional casting techniques from a lightweight metal such as aluminum or from other suitable castable materials such as plastic.

Referring to figure ~~25~~ 22 of the drawings, wake tower 140 is interconnected with a powerboat 30 of the previously described, conventional construction having a bow portion, a stern portion and first and second spaced apart gunwales. As before, the wake tower includes an upwardly extending first base member 36 that is connected to the first gunwale and an upwardly extending second base member 38 that is connected to said second gunwale. The base members are of a curved configuration and are also preferably cast from a lightweight material such as aluminum or the like.

Interconnected with the base members is a generally U-shaped, upwardly extending structural assembly generally designated by the numeral 142. The structural assembly 142 includes a pair of generally "L" shaped structural members each having a curved side 142a and a connector segment 142b that includes a base wall 142c that closes the lower extremity of the curved sides 142a. The connector segments 142b are pivotally connected to the first and second base members in the manner previously described to enable the structural assembly to be pivoted into the stowed position as illustrated in figure ~~[[4]]~~ 29. More

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particularly, as earlier discussed herein, the ears 62 and 64, which form a part of the connector segments, are inserted into the base cavities 60, the pivot pins 66 are inserted into bores 62a and the locking pins are inserted into bores 64a. With this construction, when it is desired to pivot the structural member into the stowed position in the manner previously described, locking pins 72 are removed from bores 73 to permit the structural member to pivot about pivot pins 66.

Please amend the paragraph starting at line 19 on page 21 as follows:

Referring particularly to figures 31, 32 and 35 it can be seen ~~at~~ that each of the side assemblies 162 and 164 comprises a pair of spaced apart, generally tubular members 168 and 170 which curve upwardly and inwardly. Intermediate their lengths, the tubular members are interconnected by a generally tubular shaped cross member 172. At their lower extremities, the tubular members are connected to side connectors 156 as by welding and proximate their upper extremities are connected as by welding to bight member 166 which is oval in cross-section (figures 28 and 34). Tubular members 168 and 170 cooperate with side connectors 156 to define a generally triangularly shaped opening “O”.